

How Will the New Dog and Cat Sterilization Program Work?

The Dog and Cat Sterilization Program will:

- Help pay participating veterinarians for dog and cat spay and neuter procedures
- Provide educational materials about the benefits of sterilization
- Promote the sale of the dog and cat sterilization license plate

Licensed and accredited veterinarians who choose to participate in the program will receive a subsidy payment from the Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund.

Who Supports the Program?

- Georgia Assoc. of County Commissioners
- Georgia Animal Control Association
- Georgia Coalition of Dog Clubs
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Georgia Pet Industry Association
- Georgia Sheriffs' Association
- Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
- Humane Association of Georgia
- Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

Cat Population Pyramid

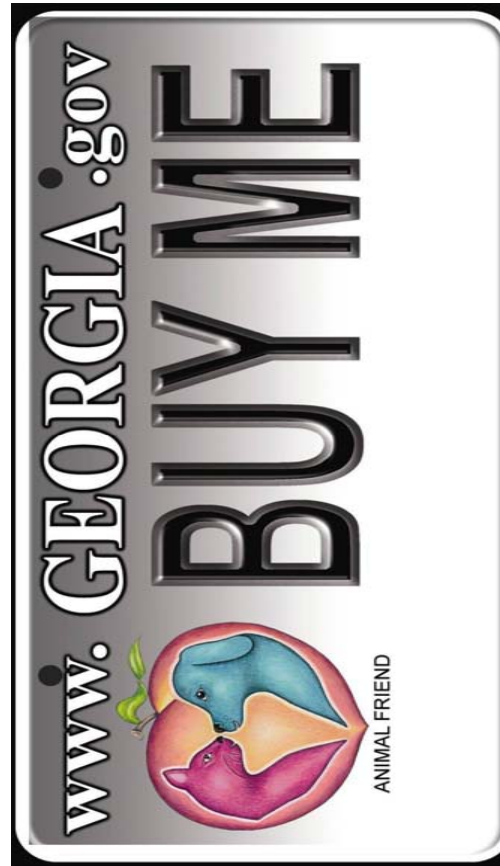
Possible reproduction of unsterilized cats:



1st Year: 3 litters = 12 Offspring

2nd Year: 144± Offspring

3rd Year: 1728± Offspring



New Dog and Cat License Plate NOW Available For \$25 Fee



Tommy Irvin
Georgia
Commissioner
of Agriculture

"Many Georgians do not spay or neuter their animals, resulting in thousands of dogs and cats being euthanized because only a few are adopted," said Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin. "This new program will save the lives of dogs and cats without increasing taxes."

Please contact us for more information:

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund
POB 347043

Atlanta GA 30334-7043

www.agr.state.ga.us
800-282-5852 or 404-656-3667

Humane Association of Georgia
www.humaneassociationofgeorgia.org
404-827-0603 or 478-745-4099

Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
www.GVMA.net
678-309-9800

This brochure is available in print-ready format on these websites to pass along to media, local officials, veterinary clinics, pet stores, friends and neighbors.

11-19-03

How Can I Support the Program?

1. Buy a Dog & Cat Sterilization License Plate
2. Make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund
3. Ask your employer to match your contribution
4. Help educate others about sterilization and the dog and cat license plate program
5. Write grant proposals for program support
6. Honor/remember someone with a contribution
7. Ask your local government for support

How Do I Get a Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plate Now?

As with other “specialty” license plates, the Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plate is available at your local tag office in Georgia. Plates can be purchased for an extra \$25 AT ANY TIME, regardless of birthday.

Purchasing the license plate is **voluntary**. It is an easy way to fund this important program and the great looking license plate will show others that you care about helping the animals!

- 77 of Georgia's 159 counties do not have animal control.
- \$1 spent on sterilization today can save \$20 by 2007.
- In 2001, metro Atlanta counties spent at least \$8 million on animal control.
- 19 states, including the Carolinas and Virginia, have license plates that fund dog and cat sterilization programs.
- The state of Georgia collects at least \$60 million annually in sales tax on dog and cat food, yet the state spends less than \$1 million annually for animal protection.

New Dog and Cat Sterilization License Plate Now Available at Your Local Tag Office



Specialty Tag Fee of \$25

Major sources of funds will be from the sale of “Animal Friend” license plates and from private donations. The purchase of the special license plate is **voluntary** and \$24 of each tag sale goes into the program. No tax money is used for this program. **All donations to the DCSF are completely tax-deductible.**

Contributions to the Dog and Cat Sterilization Fund (DCSF) can be sent to:

**DCSF
POB 347043
Atlanta GA 30334-7043**

Why Does Georgia Need a Dog and Cat Sterilization Program?

Dog and cat overpopulation is a tragic problem in all areas of Georgia. Each year thousands of healthy, friendly dogs and cats are euthanized in Georgia's animal shelters because people have allowed them to stray and breed. **There are not enough homes for them all.**

Sterilization (spaying & neutering) is the solution to dog and cat overpopulation. It reduces:

- number of stray dogs and cats
- dogs and cats housed and killed in shelters
- city/county tax burden for animal control
- destruction to property and livestock
- health risks and bad behavior
- car accidents
- wildlife and habitat destruction
- spread of disease like rabies
- injuries to people and other animals

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Can I purchase a dog and cat sterilization license plate early?

A: Yes, by surrendering your current plate to your county tag office. The fee will be \$25.00 for the license plate. Registration renewal fees and taxes will be due on or before the last day of the registered owners renewal period.

Q: I renew my plate by mail. How do I get a dog and cat sterilization license plate by mail?

A: Simply notify your county tag office in writing on your renewal form that you wish to purchase a dog and cat sterilization license plate and include an extra \$25.

Q: Can I also order personalized vanity writing on my dog and cat sterilization license plate?

A: No, vanity writing is not available on any special license plate.